

Appl. No. 09/920,756
Amdt. dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2006

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the final Official Action dated January 27, 2006. The Official Action rejected claims 1-13 and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Paul U.S. Patent No. 6,687,817 (Paul) in view of Williams et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988 (Williams). This sole ground of rejection is addressed below following a brief discussion of the present invention to provide context.

Claims 12, 13, 15, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 14 has been previously cancelled. Claims 6, 20, and 22 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 1-11 and 17-23 are presently pending.

The Art Rejections

As addressed in greater detail below, Paul and Williams do not support the Official Action's reading of them and the rejection based thereupon should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the analysis of Paul and Williams made by the Official Action and respectfully traverses the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejection.

Claims 1-13 and 15-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Paul in view of Williams. Paul addresses a system for configuring a device over a network to operate within the network. Paul, col. 2, lines 41-46. To this end, Paul describes a two way communication protocol between a new device 320 with a configuration computer 300. Paul, Fig. 3. The new device 320 repeatedly sends a "configuration request" until the configuration computer 300

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responds. The configuration computer 300 responds by sending a multicast "configuration pending" message on the network. After the new device 320 receives the configuration pending message, it enters a listening mode to wait for configuration data to be sent from the configuration computer 300. Once the new device 320 receives the configuration data from the configuration computer 300, the new device 320 may resume its boot process or reboot using the new configuration data. Paul, col. 3, lines 43-65 and Fig. 3. However, the configuration data communicated to and utilized by the new device 320 is limited to allowing the new device 320 to communicate over the network. Paul, Abstract, col. 4, lines 39-41, col. 5, lines 30-39.

Williams describes a system for determining and updating user preferences in an entertainment system such as cable systems or a "set-top box." Williams, Abstract, col. 1, lines 44-47, and col. 3, lines 21-22. William's system 100 includes a controller 104 which stores user profile information for each of the users of the system. Williams, Fig. 1 and col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 2. During operation, the controller 104 automatically determines which user of a plurality of system users is currently using the system and configures the operating parameters of the system in accordance with the user preference information of the user profile and offers programming/entertainment suggestions and additional features said to enhance the user's present enjoyment of the system. Williams, col. 3, lines 12-16. The system 100 includes devices such as a compact disk player 112, tuner/amplifier 110, television monitor 102, and the like all of which are configured by controller 104. Williams, Fig. 1. Since Williams' system detects users currently using the system, in Williams, unlike claims 1 and 4-6 which all require rebooting a

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POS terminal, the user preferences become activated when the devices have previously booted up.

In contrast to Paul and Williams, the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 4-6, 17, 20, and 22 involve a point of sale (POS) terminal which executes a handheld platform operating software. To do so, the POS terminal may have to retrieve configuration settings for operating Windows CE, for example, because, unlike many hand-held devices, the POS terminal typically is restarted in order to utilize a different operating system. On the other hand, once an operating system is installed and configured on a handheld, the handheld is not typically reconfigured and is typically not rebooted. See present specification at ¶[002]. During the re-boot process of the POS terminal, the configuration settings required by Windows CE are thus loaded in order for the POS terminal to operate the Windows CE operating system.

Claims 1, 4, and 5, for example, all recite "rebooting said POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to computer system-specific configuration settings." Executing hand-held platform operating software in a POS terminal is advantageous because the memory footprint size of the hand-held platform operating software is smaller than typical off the shelf operating systems such as Windows® NT, allowing POS terminals to require less memory and to have cheaper hardware costs. However, as discussed in the background art section of the present specification at ¶ [0005], many hand-held platform operating software have no built-in method for maintaining configuration or registry settings. Consequently, the invention as claimed in claims 1, 4-6, 17, 20, and 22 addresses the need of providing a

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mechanism for a POS terminal executing hand-held platform operating software to maintain computer system configuration settings.

Unlike this aspect of the claimed invention, both the Paul and Williams disclosures are silent with respect to operating their respective systems with a handheld platform operating software. Paul and Williams, separately or in combination, do not address the problem of a POS terminal executing hand-held platform operating software. When combining network configuration parameters to communicate over a network as taught by Paul with user profiles to configure currently operating devices as taught by Williams, the combination falls short of the present claims. Paul and Williams, separately and in combination, do not teach and do not suggest "rebooting said POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to computer system-specific configuration settings," as claimed in claims 1, 4, and 5. Paul and Williams, separately and in combination, do not teach and do not suggest "rebooting the POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to the loaded computer system-specific configuration settings," as claimed in claim 6. See also claims 17, 20, and 22 which recite a "POS terminal executing a handheld platform operating software."

Furthermore, with respect to claims 1 and 17, Paul and Williams, separately and in combination, do not address computer system-specific configuration settings being copied from or stored to both an attached storage device and a network device in the manner claimed. For example, claim 1 recites "determining if first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on an attached storage device, said first computer system-specific configuration settings including at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings for the POS terminal; if

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said first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on said storage device, copying said first computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory; determining if second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on a network device accessed through a network; if said second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on the network device, copying said second computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory." This claim feature advantageously provides a POS terminal to execute hand-held platform operating software in accordance with computer system-specific configuration stored on a network computer while providing the flexibility to execute hand-held platform operating software in accordance with computer system-specific configuration stored on an attached device if, for example, the network connection is down. Paul and William, separately or in combination, do not teach and do not suggest a POS terminal to executing handheld platform operating software in accordance with computer system-specific configuration settings copied from or stored to both a network device and an attached storage device in the manner claimed in claims 1 and 17.

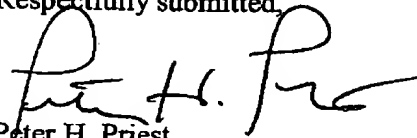
The relied upon references fail to recognize and address the problems of operating a POS terminal with handheld platform operating software in the manner advantageously addressed by the present claims. The claims as presently amended are not taught, are not inherent, and are not obvious in light of the art relied upon.

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Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter H. Priest
Reg. No. 30,210
Priest & Goldstein, PLLC
5015 Southpark Drive, Suite 230
Durham, NC 27713-7736
(919) 806-1600